

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Luz Burgos-Lopez and I live in East Hartford, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days.

As a woman of color with a disability in the state of Connecticut, paid sick time has been essential to both to my professional success and to my ability to be present for my family. Growing up in Hartford, I remember watching my mother going to work sick, and being reprimanded by her supervisors for not going into work because me or my brother were sick. We lived in constant fear that my mother would lose her job, and so often I would just go to school sick so that she wouldn't need to take time off. No family should have to choose between their health/family's health and their income, especially families from low-income backgrounds who already experience additional barriers to meet their basic needs.

I am grateful to have access to paid sick time at this point in my career, but I am very much aware that this is considered a privilege when it should be a right we all have access too. I've also had the opportunity to supervise and run a team, and honoring my team's full humanity means making sure they have access to paid sick time. In the end, my team is stronger when they are able to take care of their health without the fear of loss of income.

I strongly support the expansion of paid sick days in our state. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote favorably this year to strengthen Connecticut's paid sick leave law.

Thank you for your time,  
Luz Burgos-Lopez  
East Hartford, CT